

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program

Protect our water. Get funding to upgrade or close your well.

Do you have an old or abandoned well on your property? Do you live near a municipal residential drinking water well or intake? If yes, you can get funding to upgrade or cap your well. The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program will cover up to 80 per cent of the cost of an eligible project, to a maximum of \$4,000.

Why are old or abandoned wells a problem?

Wells that are abandoned, damaged, or poorly maintained can be a pathway for contaminants to enter groundwater which is the source for many municipal drinking water systems. Properly upgrading or closing your well benefits you and protects your municipality's drinking water.

What should I do about my well?

- get your well inspected regularly by a licensed professional
- properly maintain your well
- repair damage to your well
- properly seal off wells that you are not using.

Am I eligible for funding?

Yes, if your property is within or extends into the following eligible areas:

- 100-metre radius of a municipal wellhead
- 200-metre radius of a surface water intake
- the approved two-year time-of-travel around a municipal wellhead or

- the approved intake protection zone-one (IPZ-1) around a surface water intake.

What projects are funded?

- sealing and capping old water wells
- upgrading and maintaining water wells that are in use
- connecting to a municipal drinking water service line/trunk line and decommissioning the existing well (These are two separate projects but funding for connections cannot be received unless the existing well has been decommissioned).

Note: These projects must be carried out by a well technician or well contractor licensed under the Ontario Water Resources Act.

What costs can I recover?

- fees for required permits and approvals for eligible projects
- purchased materials and supplies
- contract labour
- professional fees and technical support
- fees for related design, inspection and construction
- fees and work related to connecting to a municipal drinking water service line/trunk line.

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How can I apply for this funding and learn more?

If you are a farmer, you can receive up to 100 per cent of the cost of these activities through the Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program and the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program. Details about the program and how to apply to the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association is available at:

<http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org>

Other property owners can contact their local conservation authority to learn more and apply for funding at:

<http://conservation-ontario.on.ca/find/index.html>

You can learn more about the Clean Water Act at: www.ontario.ca/cleanwater

This publication is for your information only. For compliance purposes, you should always refer to the Clean Water Act or related regulations.



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